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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR 27 March 1952

SUBJECT Black Market Activities

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. In spite of the severe penalties prescribed by law, the black market in Rumania continues to flourish. The dollar, nominally 150 lei on the legal market sells for 700 lei on the black market. A gold coin of the approximate value of the British sovereign brings between 7,000 and 8,000 lei.
2. High Communist officials and Soviet functionaries are buying furniture at very low prices. This furniture is bought from departing aliens, usually through intermediaries. Pianos, especially those with bronze soundboards, bring as much as 25,000 lei. Many of these pianos are being sent to the Soviet Union.

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